

On June 23, 1972, the United States Congress passed a law that amended Title IX of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*

. This amendment, commonly referred to simply as, Title IX, stated that programs receiving federal funding could not discriminate on the basis of sex. It ensured that the federal government would protect women's rights to equal educational opportunities and changed American education forever.

Today, we celebrate the 39th anniversary of this very important piece of legislation. Since its enactment, Title IX has helped mitigate a wide range of discriminatory practices including sexual harassment and discriminatory admissions processes. It is perhaps most known for ensuring the fair treatment and overall availability of women's athletic teams. Title IX has afforded opportunities to millions of women and tapped into their limitless potential in all professional fields, academic disciplines, artistic avenues, and athletic activities.

Title IX is but one example of our nation's continuing struggle to ensure educational access to all citizens. It was passed with the understanding that expanded educational opportunities are not merely a privilege of those of a certain gender, but a right to which all Americans are entitled. Title IX helped open the doors to educational advancement for countless American women, but the struggle for equal opportunity in education continues.

I remain dedicated to upholding the commitment our nation made thirty-nine years ago and continue to advance and support legislation that ensures access to education for all citizens. Recently, I staunchly opposed the Department of Education's new gainful employment regulations, which will limit access to higher education low-income and minority students by using a flawed debt-to-income ratio to measure education quality.

Though my Republican colleagues have threatened to cut and defund many vital social and educational programs, I hope that this Congress continues the long standing American tradition of investing in education, our children, and the future of our nation. Title IX marked an important triumph in this national imperative, and today, as we celebrate this victory, let us remember our commitment to empowering all children to reach their full potential.